



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DECEMBER DECLARED 'HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS' MONTH
Governor Encourages Arizonans to Support Food Banks

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano declared December “*Hope for the Holidays*” month, encouraging Arizonans to contribute to food banks statewide, to help ensure that every child, family and individual in need has food on the table during this holiday season.

“With the holidays approaching and many people suffering because of the difficult economy, it’s never been more important to remember those Arizonans who are struggling to make ends meet,” said the Governor. “More than ever before, food banks are serving as a critical lifeline for those in need. Let’s help fight hunger this holiday season and throughout the upcoming year by supporting our local food banks.”

In any given week, 82,000 Arizonans receive emergency food services, and more than 40 percent of these are seniors and children. In the past year, the working poor in Arizona have seen a 10 percent increase in costs to maintain basic living necessities such as food, shelter, and clothing and food banks cannot keep up with the increase in demand.

As part of the dedication, the Governor announced a holiday donation drive to support Arizona food banks. She encouraged Arizonans to make an online monetary contribution to the Association of Arizona Food Banks at www.azfoodbanks.org. On that site, Arizonans can direct the contribution to a specific local food bank and even get information on how to organize a community food drive. More information regarding the Governor’s *Hope for the Holidays – Giving Thanks and Giving Back* program can be found at www.azgovernor.gov/holidayhope.

The 13 winners of the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety Kids Calendar contest were also announced. Children from across the state submitted more than 3,000 entries for this annual calendar, which provides safety messages to remind children of things they can do to protect themselves and serves as a reminder to adults that we must do all we can to keep children safe.

Attached is the Governor’s *Hope for the Holidays – Giving Thanks and Giving Back* proclamation.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.

Governor's Office of Highway Safety: Kids Safety Calendar Winners/Month

Regina LeNormand – Cover Page

Age: 11
Sonoran Science Academy
Tucson, Arizona

Jessie Aranda – January

Age: 9
Sunrise Elementary
Bullhead City, Arizona

Annalia Cota – February

Age: 13
Desert Shadows Middle School
Nogales, Arizona

Estephania Torres – March

Age: 8
Acclaim Academy
Phoenix, Arizona

Jazmin Miguel – April

Age: 10
Mitchell Elementary School
Phoenix, Arizona

Diego Ceballos – May

Age: 11
Desert Shadows Middle School
Nogales, Arizona

Haven Norman – June

Age: 7
Sunset Canyon Elementary
Phoenix, Arizona

Michelle Torres – July

Age: 10
Acclaim Academy
Phoenix, Arizona

Elif Chiftchi – August

Age: 11
Sonoran Science Academy
Tucson, Arizona

Azalyn Valdovinos – September

Age: 9
Paramount Academy
Peoria, Arizona

Karina Marciano – October

Age: 9
Sonoran Science Academy
Tucson, Arizona

Violeta Quiroz – November

Age: 13
Acclaim Academy
Phoenix, Arizona

Nubia Guillen – December

Age: 11
Laguna Elementary School
Tucson, Arizona